

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3690

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for birthmothers who are placing or have placed a child for adoption, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide services for birthmothers who are placing or have placed a child for adoption, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Adoption
5 Outcomes and Affordability Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES FOR**
7 **BIRTHMOTHERS.**

8 (a) **SERVICES AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services (in this section referred to

1 as the “Secretary”) shall, either directly or by grant to
2 or contract with the eligible entities described in sub-
3 section (b), provide services described in subsection (c) for
4 birthmothers who are placing a child for adoption.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The eligible entities re-
6 ferred to in subsection (a) are States, local governmental
7 entities, and public or private agencies or organizations,
8 including public or private licensed child welfare or adop-
9 tion agencies or adoptive family groups and faith-based
10 organizations.

11 (c) TYPES OF SERVICES.—The types of services re-
12 ferred to in subsection (a) are—

13 (1) counseling services for birthmothers who are
14 placing or have placed a child for adoption, includ-
15 ing—

16 (A) individual counseling;

17 (B) mental health counseling; and

18 (C) substance abuse counseling;

19 (2) provide information relating to the avail-
20 ability of post-adoption services and benefits for
21 birthmothers, including contact information for post-
22 adoption services and benefits provided by States
23 and local units of government, as appropriate; and

24 (3) training of staff at hospitals and other ap-
25 propriate birth care facilities relating to interaction

1 of such staff with birthmothers and adoptive fami-
2 lies.

3 (d) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity referred to in
4 subsection (a) that desires to receive a grant or enter into
5 a contract with the Secretary under subsection (a) shall
6 submit an application to the Secretary that describes the
7 manner in which the entity will use funds under the grant
8 or contract during the 3 fiscal years subsequent to the
9 date of the application to accomplish the purposes of this
10 section. Such application shall be submitted in a form and
11 manner determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

12 (e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require each eli-
13 gible entity referred to in subsection (a) that receives a
14 grant or enters into a contract with the Secretary under
15 subsection (a) to submit to the Secretary a report on the
16 services provided or activities carried out by the entity for
17 each fiscal year for which the entity receives amounts
18 under the grant or contract. The report shall contain such
19 information as the Secretary determines is necessary to
20 provide an accurate description of the services provided
21 or activities carried out with such amounts.

22 (f) SERVICES TO SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUP-
23 PLANT.—Services provided under a grant or contract
24 under subsection (a) shall supplement, and not supplant,

1 services provided using any other funds made available for
2 the same general purposes.

3 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE
4 PROVISIONS.—The Secretary shall—

5 (1) provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
6 ties referred to in subsection (a) that receive a grant
7 or enter into a contract with the Secretary under
8 subsection (a) for purposes of providing the services
9 described in subsection (c);

10 (2) as appropriate, coordinate the provision of
11 services described in subsection (c) with other adop-
12 tion-related research, training, services, and assist-
13 ance activities carried out by the Department of
14 Health and Human Services; and

15 (3) either directly, or by grant to or contract
16 with a public or private agency or organization—

17 (A) evaluate the implementation and effec-
18 tiveness of the provision of services described in
19 subsection (c) and other activities carried out
20 under this section;

21 (B) identify different pre-placement serv-
22 ices provided for birthmothers, the availability
23 and utilization of such services, and how pre-
24 placement services might be improved; and

1 (C) not later than 3 years after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, submit to Con-
3 gress a report that contains the results of the
4 evaluation under subparagraph (A) and the in-
5 formation described in subparagraph (B).

6 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this Act, there are
8 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services—

10 (1) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and

11 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
12 the fiscal years 2021 through 2024.

13 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant
14 to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a)
15 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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